

Comments on N2021-1.

Esteemed Postal Regulatory Commission members and staff,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to oppose adoption of the sweeping changes proposed in the “Delivering for America” plan, to slow down mail service, cut staff, and outsource many postal functions.

I am not necessarily opposed to slowing service for First Class mail. The suggestion of reducing the use of air transport could save money, helping to keep stamp rates low, and it would reduce the USPS’ contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. It deserves serious consideration. However, the timeline of this plan appears to have been driven by political motives, and it includes many elements that are harmful or poorly considered. It is critical that the USPS maintain its mandate to serve all citizens equitably, and not go the route of private companies who have simply abandoned many rural customers. And it is critical that if we do slow first-class mail, we ensure that seniors who rely on mail to receive prescriptions retain a viable alternative. This could, for example, mean routing prescriptions into Priority Mail, and requiring shipping coverage from prescription drug insurance plans. But regardless, *some* plan must be established, *before* regular First Class mail is permitted to slow down.

Suggestions of outsourcing should be summarily rejected. In most cases, pushing government functions out to private firms has only resulted in the proliferation of waste, fraud, and abuse. Profit-seeking contractors deliver worse service for higher cost, and use political contributions to shield themselves from oversight. This aspect of the plan is a transparent attack by anti-government zealots against the viability of the USPS, similar to the ridiculous requirement that was imposed on the USPS to pre-fund pensions decades in advance.

Please prevent this plan from moving forwards. Some individual elements may merit consideration by a fully-staffed Board of Governors and new Postmaster General, but it is inappropriate at this time to initiate major changes in postal operations.

Regards,

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